

EIVI



The new 14/15 kit unveiled

12th man picture gallery













LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY tor David Cottrel Assistant Editor William Highes

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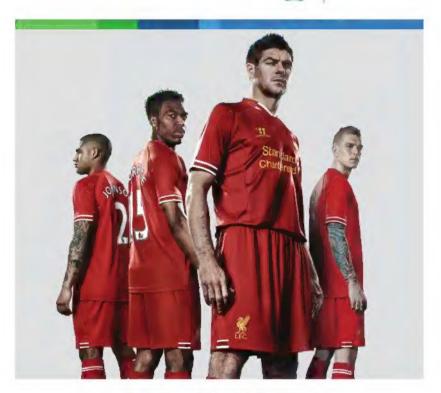
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Fedures; what's on LFC TV, away days in Ireland; Sakho on Instagram; the latest musthave merchandise. Foundation news, World Cup book competition & David Price's column





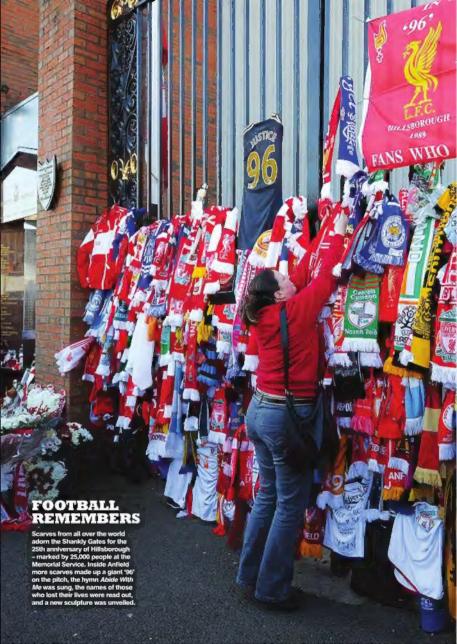




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ANFIELD CELEBRATES

A capacity crowd witnessed a 2-2 draw between fearns comprised of Local and Hierardisonal LFC Logards in Easter Monday's Celebration of the-95 event at Artifical The match was, the centrepiece of a full day of events originated by the Hillsborough Farmily Support Group to not only rises funds but also commenced the lives of the 50 georgie who died on 15 Agril 1999.

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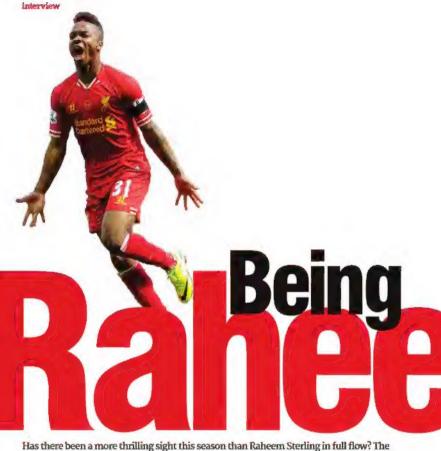


TOP OF THE KIT PARADE

Four Reds stars revealed the home strip for 2014/15 in front of thousands of fans at the Liverpool One shopping complex in the heart of the city. Jordan Henderson, Simon Mignolet, Philippe Coutriho and Kolo Toure stepped out of a Warnor-branded shipping container to the delight of supporters, some of whom had been waiting for up to six hours to be the first to see the new lot - and Jordan couldn't resist the temptation to take a group settle just before the doors opened.

The new strip takes inspiration from the Roger Hunt era of the 1960s when Bill Shanidy's Mighty Rads won promotion to the top light and went on to win the League, FA Cup (for the first time) and League again. "It's great to see that 50 years on Liverpool are still looking like giants in their all red strip said Sir Roger

Fans can order the new LFC home. kit from either the Official Liverpool FC Online Store or in any Official Liverpool FC Club Store



Has there been a more thrilling sight this season than Raheem Sterling in full flow? The young man with not just the ball but the world at his feet, talks candidly to Simon Hughes

he recalls: "I was going as fast as I

could. I saw Dan (Sturridge), I knew I had to be selfish. Then I just thought that I had to use Den as a dummy."

Fortunately it worked. "Otherwise Dan would proteible have signed my head off it was more of an instinct thing. I just through if 10 best by it because the keeper and the detender would probably dive and by to save the ball if passed soleways. So I werk with the shimmy, it opened up.

These expenses it is sureau of Sterling's voice when he describes the split second after the ball has crossed the line. "I can't remomber hearing any noise [in the build-up]. Everything is blanked. You see faces: your teammales, the opposition, the thousands of people in the stadium. But you heer nothing. Then the ball hits the back of the net and everything changes.

"I'd imagine it's like watching a game on TV without volume their reaching for the remote when your team scores and hearing the roar. Theit's how it feets to ma. That day it was unreal. Just tailing about it gives me a stiver.

"It is a crazy leeling, I look back at it and smile but only because we







"I feel like I'm growing up quickly and you have to look towards the boss for that"

wanted to be on the visiting team's bus that morning."

It takes something to be able to reflect and intertirel when a person is still a teenager still only 19 years old. Yet we expect Sterling to have all the answers, whether that is on the pitch or in an interview room. He has experienced irle. Moving Irom Jamaica with his mother Nocine as a fiveyear-old to a foreign country and a very different community could not have been easy. Then there is the expectation, ever since he trained with Queens Park Rangers' first teem as a 14-year-old and displayed such tenacity and skill that he was able to dispossess Shaun Deny before nutmegging the dub captain and scoring a goal in his debut session Observers were open-mouthed.

From London, he moved to Liverpoot, another very different city indeed. He is now a father to Melody Rose. He is an England informational footballer. Mely to be selected for a World Cup sould in Brazil.

"I feel like I'm growing up quickly

I've ted to, to make sure I'm in the Unerpool teem. Maybe on the outside people had the impression I've always been really confident But after a good start [In leaf season; I started looking for easy options rather than taking or chance mystelf, bearing a man, taking a shark or mystelf, bearing a man, taking a shark or mystelf.

"You could look at the City goal as an example I'm not lying to sound cheeky or over confident." Three or four months ago, I would have squared rather than size the responsibility all for myself, it is difficult getting that balance between being confident and over confident over just going for the easy option all the time. I'm segrang that there are no easy options: Justinght options and wrong options:

Sharing started this season as a lieft winger." I not thought to out of pay left winge, "he says. Since, he has played pight-back right wing-back and as a nor in." probably didn't think I was capable of doing all thait. "Suring is repulsion was so great thair most people believed they had him floors out. In 10 short morths, I suggest to him that a previously undiscovered potential has been undiscovered.

"I finitely opin here to book lowerds the manager for het." The styls, crediting Brenden Rodgers. "Since coming here at 15, I was on the left. Blought I breaw that note west. But in the first learn, my bast performances have probably been on the nght or behind the strivers. I feel like I'm a different player now, with more to only.

Raheem says Rodgers has a "special" ability to man-mange players. He lefts a story about a learn-male who received a half-time testing-off. Widhim manutes of the break, the tearn-mate had soored a goal in he storhind area Sterling goold see Rodgers Suighing. "It was deliberate." Sterling says, with a light saw with a light say.





"He just does if to get a reaction he knows how to push the right buttons how to wind people up to get the best but of them how to bring people down a peg or two, dangling the parrot, know because "we been there top a couple of times.

Rodgers too has the ability to take all the fear away both individually and collectively. There was a brine all uverpool when the fear of losing overcame the courage to go and win Storling says that like the team he is fearing for trust himself.

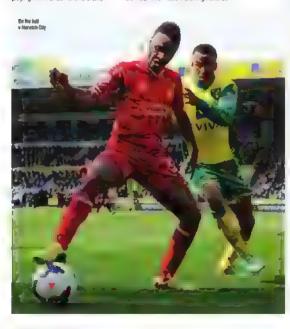
"I'm lwing burely for football." Thinking purely bottoal." Playing one game the training only about the need game, how I can help the team. purely to see how, can braillange myself. My goal was always to play for Juverpool of sime I thought that poal was achieved because I was one of the lucity ones to do it. But you realise that is not enough. There always has to be the neat challenge, to archieve things and with things."

From December time realised had to start stamping my personality running with the ball running into the box making goals, soot playing with that barrier and create



as much as I can not to be womed about making mistakes I'd look for the easy pass and give it to a haam-miste when I was in the better postorn not just for myself but for the learn. I'd stopped being named, all the things i'd done which got me into the first learn in the first place. You have to do what you think is right, not what you expect other peculae mouth think is not the other peculae.

Sometimes in football, there can be too much information. Sterling believes



the key to Everpoof's emergence from Champions Lasque hopefuls at best to title contenders this season is simplicity just as it was long before

The way the manager is running the clab is the right way. It's not just on the football side. There's always contine there to what you need. Nutrition the mental side or fechanical analysis we don't have to ask. When you couple hat wat the standard of the players, here you cause the reads of the side of t

Ratine than being instructed Sterling says he is, guided by Prodigers and his staff. Before the victory over City the insessage was clear. To create space in behand to keep the detensive midfielder blowing backwards rather than florwards to get wide make turns and come back contrat when the other test has the ball. Then most importantly keep the ball, play it should be all similer.

He continues. The text thing you want is not to be in the right position and the other team score a goal Observace we'll all be in the meeting toom and your role in it all will be highlightfact it's not a note beeing when you're in that position, but of course it hand to meet the position. But of course it in notice to propore in the position, but of course it in notice to propore.

Stering speaks too about Steve Peters. Liverpool's club psychathist, a person who is able to reinforce the manager's diese through simple messages. "We use a motific Toous on the ball flocus on the barm. India a meeting with him (Peters) before the City game. Though't II was going to atost 20.25 minutes. So I walled in useful down and hij just said "Pocus on the ball floous on the team. "Is that IP") asked him. Still it was really important.

The way he works is brillant. At lirst thought it wasn't for me. On the outside you might think it's complicated. But all the misstages are very straightforward. He uncleastands the players and the emblocal side of the game. What he says really helps you."

Starting is quick to praise the role of other players who "make it a lot easier when he is selected correlatly at the top of a midfield diamond." The midfield that level up to the way they pess the ball, think it helps me a lot. The way they help possession and the lampo means five just got to get in good possions to get in behind the defende of the defensive midfielder. To play with players file that when they find mengularly in oney fortunates.

His believes his postional sense needs improving particularly. But he adds that no lootballer can ever be content, using the example of he capitar. Sizven Gerrard as a reference Being a no 10 is something to the loot do more of in the future, really it suits me when it by to get on the bell and get tunning ever without it as I did for



the goal against City. I realise too that playing in all positions have happed me this season, my overall understanding. You always think you know but until you get out there and play it is different. No footballer can stop and think there's nothing to improve on.

You see players the Stone in training every day tying 50, so hard to get better. Which an arrisaning player that he still tries. Because that s what has gotten harh to where he is. You're always timeling that he is been there and done that, doing what everyone.

Stove were younger.

he moved about the pitch too. You can learn from every experience.

There is an impression treat Sterling is not burdened by the failures of pest tearns, when uverpool lief short. The challenge of winning the league is something your leg off or refsh." he salys. "You realise the fairs must be instrated because if has been so long but they are very understanding automatic the sales." We're location just on what is bepening right now and seeing where that lates us

"Because we've got a good chance"

YOUNGEST POST-WAR: ENGLAND DEBUTS

Theo Walcott 17 years 74 days 2006 v Hungary Wayne Rooney 17 years 110 days 2003 v Australia Rabeem Steeting 17 years 342 days 2012 v Sweden Michael Owen 18 years 59 days 1098 v Chile Micals Richards JB years 143 days 2006 v Holland Harry Wilhott is Liverpool's youngest international, making his debut for Wales v Belgium in Oct 2013 aged 16 years and 207 days

beating the record set by Rahuern. He also beat the Welsh record set by Gareth Bale.

B 6 13/14

Which club did young Reds winger Jordan Ibe join in Fébruary?

2 In which borne Australian sporting stactium did Liverpool play as part of their pre-season four?

Put names to these LFC backgoom staff interviewed by the magazine in August (f) head of opposition analysis; (fi) sport psychiatrist; (fill head of performance

4 What was the game in which Steven Gerard open his 2013/14 league scoring account?

5 When the magazine asked Mamadou. Sakho what it would be like to lace Suerez and Sturridge, to which fierce animal did he liken himself?

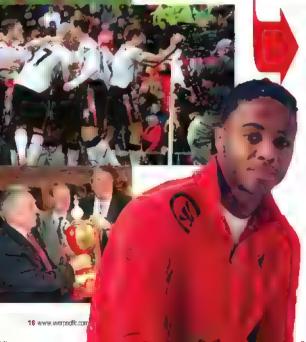
6 Whip louted Joe Allien to give away Loverpool's second penalty in the 3-0 win at Old Trafford?

7 in which year was the original 7in single We Are Liverpool released?

After which betwee was young defender Jon Planagan given a round of applause by his team-mates?

In which number in line did Martin Slotel tell the magazine he likes to emerge from the players tunner?

10 Against which side did Raheem Sterling chalk up his 50th Premier League appearance for the Reds?



ANFIELD

11 When Luis Suarez scored from a free-luck against Hull City on New Year's Day in how many consecutive Antiold Edures had he found the net?

12 From whom did Liverpool Ladies sign winger Gentma Devision?

13 in the opening Premier League geme against Stoke City at Artifield whose follow-up shot was blocked by Simon Mignotet allier he'd saved the Jonathan Walters penatry?

A new headstone for which ternous figure from Liverpool FC's distant past was placed in Anfield Cemetery in December?

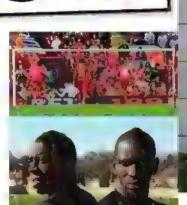
15 Who came on as a substitute for Olchem Athletic, on the 83rd minute in the FA Cup third-round be against Liverpool?

16 And altogether how many goals did Loverpool score in the FA Cup and Capital One-Oup combined?

17 What shirt number was young playmaker Joso Carlos Taxiera handed this season?

18 Which striker whold made three appearances for the first team, moved to Yeovilin January?

19 Artifetd played thost to a reunion of the 1963/64 title winners in take November—what special trophy also made an appearance?



BIG FAT 13/14 QUIZ

20 in which Premier League foture did unerpool's players weer the approximations for the manual on their shirts for the first time?

2-1 On 5 March 2014 against which country did Jordan Henderson with his eighth and most recent cap for England?

22 And which uverpool player scored the winner in that same international triendly?

23 with a special minute's applicuse before therpoot's Prantier League home game against West Ham United on 7 December?

24 One day i'd like to bump into him. have a chat about it and see what he really thinks. I'd ask him i'he s changed his mind about me as a player. "To whom was skipper Sleven Gerrard referring in our Christmas sous intervew?

25 How many consecutive games had the Reds lost at White Hart Lane before they beat Tottenham

26 Which two retired against Olympiacos?

27 He did have an aura. of men but was always beautifully dressed and his shoes were so polished you. could see your face in them. About whom was veteran Liverpool journalist. John Kaith talling in issue 12 of the manacine?

28 how many followers did the official wiLFC Twitter account have at the start of April 2014?

29 Can you name the two German players from the victorious uverpool Ladies learn interviewed by the magazine back in October? They re pictured together





31 tissue 14 also explored LPC's roots through newspaper cuttings from 1892 can you identify the famous ligure in the cartoon just below?

22 Striker Demiel Sturnidge came 24 off the benich to equalise at Evenon in November against which country had he played for England the previous Tuesday?

33 Name the star from 7he Office to show we interviewed in Issue to about his passion for the Reds

34 What was the motio of the their FA WSI, title triumph?

35 Which famicus fair peid a visit to Antield for the 4-0 win

36 who hasn't proved me wrong he a proved me right. He's composed, he looks bigger on the pitch and he's been onlight. "About whom was Brendan Rodgers talking in his interview with the magazine in December?"

season mastermind

37 Young Portuguese delender Tago fron revealed there were admired. One was from the past Franz Beckenbauer Who was fine modern-day player?

38 Along with Tiego which other detender officially joined the club on 2 September 2013?

39 Before the Premier League fedure against which side was there a Spion Kop mosaic celebrating Bit Shankly's 100th birthday?

40 Against which team old Steven General captain the team for the 400th time? Little clue: they like a lot of possession

AT Steven earned his 109th international cap in March who are the only two players in history to have made more appearances for England?

42 Who came on as a substitute at Choisea on 29 December to make his first-team debut for LFC?

43 fuis Suarez scored four against.
Norwich in December at Anfield but which of those goals was his tandmark 50th in the Premier Leegue?

With his second spot-lick at West Mam last month. Steven Gernard overtook Kenny Dalgish in the UFC all-time goellooners but what position did he jump up to?

45 Eventon at Anfield in January was LPC's biggest victory over the Blues since which year?

46 Against which learn did use Suarez score his first hal-trick of the season?

47 And in which game did Luis first do his 'Hulk celebration?

48 Who came on as a vale substitute for goelscorer Philippe Coutinho in the sensational 3-2 home win over Menchester City?

49 Name the title and the author of the novel about Bit Shankly published in August 20137

50 How many ex-Reds, who had previously appeared for LPC in the Premier League, played against Liverpool in 2013/44?



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HAMAN

us Garcia is fondly remembered for his brilliant poals. What people forcet is the number of opeasions he would give the ball away Sometimes held concede possession the first 10 times he got the ball, and quite often he wasn't even trying to make difficult passes. More than once, had to stop Carra giving him a milickero

Despite the frustration that he THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE nince in the side heralise he was capable of producing a brilliant winner such as his FA Cup semi-final strike acainst Chetsea

The reason I'm talking about him is to demonstrate that although tactics and formations are important infootball, they can't be too ngid. Some players, such as Lus, are tree spints. They play on instinct. You try to make the system work around them, rather than forcing them to change their natural game to M the system

That's what Brenday Rodgers has done this season. He's attered the formation on a number of pocasions to get the best out of the players at his disposal and those tactics have worked succettly

Dunng the 3-2 win over Manchester City the use of a midfield diamond allowed Jordan Henderson and Raheem Sterling to roam. City had no answer for it and the space their movement created gave us the platform to go two goals ahead

"Brendan has altered the formation to get the best out of the players at his disposal"



Formations can be talked about too much. It is too simplistic to say a learn won because they played 4-4-2 or 4-3-3. That's only a smed part of the reason. It is the work that goes into prepanny for the game and then having the players involement the plan that ensures the result it is not just how the team lines up for suck-off.

Brendan is someone who spends plenty of time working on his tactical approach and honing it for each game. Rafa Bendez was sinvar. He really emphasised what he wanted the team and each player to do. Tacacally I know I learned plenty from him and I'd say every player who worked with him would agree. Gerard Houllier wash? quite as locused on that side of football although we did spend some time working on learn shape or Phil Thompson would coach the back-four

No matter what tactics you employ they won't work unless the players you have at your disposal are intelligent enough. Some find it easy to do what the manager requires others struggle. The more players you have who are tactically aware the better your taxim will be But even then you'll have matches where all tactics seem to just go out at the window expenenced plenty of those in my time at Liverpool. such as the 2001 UEFA Cup that Istanbul and the FA Cup final against West Harm United

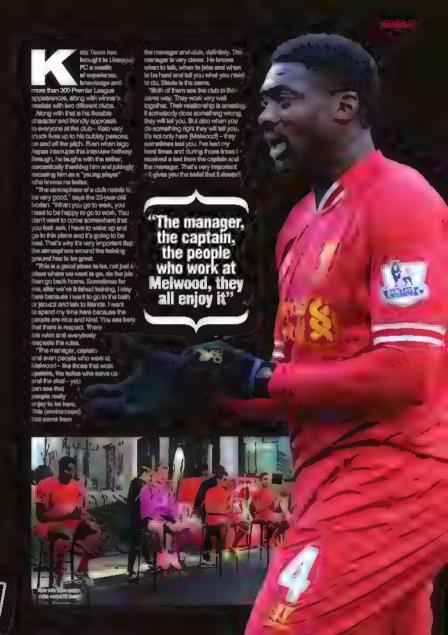
In the first and last of those dames. neither team was able to exert control for too long. There were goats flying in at each end. While in 2005 AC Milan obviously dominated the first half Going back out for the second 45. minutes our only tactic was simple

not to let them score the next coal Thankfully is worked and we all know what happened after that. Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamenn

You can't help but

You can't help but like Kolo Toure - his enthusiasm, cheerfulness and professionalism are infectious, as Glenn Price discovers at Melwood

SA



matter what happens, people will always be bettind you, and that shows the spirit of this club. They do things like that to give you the power to carry or. When the manager calls you into this office, if there's something he or yourself want to fall about, he's very honest as well. He will full you what he thinks and that's very importal's very in thinks and that's very importal's very in thinks and that's very importal's very in the second of the second of the property of the thinks and that's very importal's when the thinks and that's very importal when the thinks and the second the thinks and the thinks the thinks

Japon Toure joining the club, Breindan Rodges spoke of the centrehalfs winning mentality. Appearing as a vital member around successful squads all throughout his career. Rolo highlights the fundamentals of winners.

"Respect, hard work and dedication. The basics to be a winner are here You, can see the capitain represents that. Steve is the first at the training ground and he's the first to be there, in anything we do the sam example of leadership.

"What" we seen in other clubs, like Arsenal and Manchester City when they have won' is what I can see here it's very special here. It's a great club and has been for many years

"It doesn't malter what has happened, if we lose a game you leave it behind you because you can't do anything about it. You have to locus on the next stage, the positives. Just longet about what happened and carry on living. Because if you put the work in, you're going to win."

It's easy to see the declication and hard work that he talks about, it's reflected in the eyes of the younger players in the squad that heve come on leaps and bounds this season. Tours insists that it works both ways

the youngster also set an example for him and others to follow "When!" first came I found some young players, very concentrated and they were

aiready top pros. If you see a young player working hard, what else can you tell them? "As an experienced player, less

"As an experienced player, learn from them as well Everyday they come to lisaning, give their best, give 100% and singly themselves. When they come from the Academy, you can see the locus they vee got. You can see the locus they vee got. You can see the sport of the social cub. There is a great mentality want to make it. That shows the sport of this football cub. There is a great mentality here and that is why limit fusing out are on the rise.

"Raheern (Sterling) everyday in training will give you 100%. At the start of the saeson, he olich? play much but he kept on working hard and now he's playing more than anybody. I think this









season he's been amazing. Every time he plays, he's unbelievable

"Flanne's amazing too. Right at the start of the season, 4 think I said on the radio that I can see Flanno coming on because he's going to be a great leader. At the start of the season he didn't play a folial games, but he never complained. He kept working hand every day

"I've seen some young players in the past give up when they don't play But with Flanno Raheem and even Jordon line and Andre Wisdom who are out on loen, they are all fighters Every day at training they give 100%

What about someone like Mamadou Sakho, still young but new to the Prentier League when he arrived last August with a big price-tag to boot? "I've been very impressed with him He's a very good guy and very intelligent as well. He knows what you want and islens to everybody. He's adapted very quiddy. He's even doing thing outside of factball too. He does a lot of charity work and things for the lods in Senegal it shows he has a big heart and is a top guy

The received opinion was that Kolo homséti was brought in to replace Jamie Carragher certainly in terms of experience and charisma. Like always say there is only one Jame Carragher What he did for this club and English football was amazing. I sust try and do what I can because in life, for me, even/body has this

allow the rate at Villa patighery prodpine and Chair Room

"We have so many good young players and if we keep them we'll just get better"

quality [leadership]. Each person is different and just want to do what Kold Toure can do

For all his geneality Toure is also the ultimate professional. Knowing when to focus is testament as to why Toure remains at the top level at this stage of his career just work hard every day

there is no short out. There's never a day where I come in and fire like don't want to train today. Of course there are bries when you feel tired but you have to carry on working hard because as soon as you alop doing that, you drop your level

If you drop your level you won't be able to take your chance. You won't be able to cope with the Premier League

because there's no chance you can play here if you're not fit enough That's why I just work really really hard every day. As well as that, I control my diel because you have to control your weight, drink lots of water do voga. You have to do a lot of things right."

Tours started the season as firstchoice centre-half and probably teabured more than he thought after playing 15 games in his last season at City. "For me personally I think the season started very well I played a few games and I'm very happy because im part of a really great team

"Every game is very difficult to play in because there's lots of competition in every position, especially at the back I've played some gemes and done my bit when the team needed me For sure as a player you want to play more but like I ve said there's lots of competition within the team

Martin Skriter has been prest this season. He's a great footballer Daniel Apper Saltho and everyone has been doing their jobs very well As a team we just try to light and to win trophies, which is the target. We want to bring trophies and try to bring the club back where 4 belongs

For the team, me and everyloody i's been a greet season. Everybody has put in the work, the manager with his training sessions and every player putting in the effort to train very well to get better in games.

"Alt the start of the season, nobody expected us to be where we are now The manager was the first person to believe 4, then after turn it was the captain. The toam will just envoy this time and do everything we can

"Black and by good young players now doing a fantastic job along in the language in a language If we keep them around then Jiverbook will be better and better every year The future looks bright "



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LIONEL MESSI (Marcelona)

passing accuracy and to anti-according 20 April 2014;

West Ham on I April 2014 taking him level with Jan Molby as all-time spot-kick king for LFC data mining



Pirto on Stevie

back four Now we have the Pirio position. dictating play from the same position with the emphasis as much upon tempo and creativity as prevention and power lying enforms protecting the mulfield First came the Majoriele role deoper

perfect for the Tole Manaligent players adapt and Sevrand has the ablity to do that He is an emellent passes of the ball and has Antirea Pirlo, currently chasing the Serie willing to adapt there is no season with your can ' play at the top level until your late Jos. great vision. He has all the qualities to play for Literappool and England in a new rule 14 A little with Juvenius, turns 15 on 19 May aleven days before Gernard celebrates his uwn 34th buthday He believes Steven is skeper If you hok after yourself and are I'm very possible he has many years left



ASSIST OF THE SEASON Steven's pass for Daniel Sturridge v Fulham (A) Wed 12 Feb 2014



Brendan Rudgers gets the best from his creative quartet



PHILIPPE COUTINHO

Passing and pressing across the park

Liverpool strikers Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge have both praised the partect passing of the Brazillan, with the latter describing him simply as "the man-

Inevitably the exact through-balls that Philippe Coutrillo attempts wor'll always work. However if would be pointless trying such passes if he didn't have colleagues making intelligent, well-timed forward bursts. Brendan Rodgen, has put plenty of those players. around Coutenho to ensure no matter in which role he operates. he has a number of runners to roldese, with Suarez, Stumdge Sterling and Jordan Henderson all benefiting from the type of delence-eliminating pass from which the last of that quartet scored in our 2-1 win at Aston Villa last season

Yet it isn't just with the ball that the man from Pio threatens. Despite his size, the no10 presses opponents all over the pitch to regain possession. "He's worked on it (being more physical)." Rodgers pointed out when talking about Coutinho's "main strength. Hatern Ben Arta will testify to that after he was shrugged. off the ball in LFC's 6-0 win at St James Park last season, white more recently Jack Wilshire clearly dictn't enjoy numerous bussies with the Brazilian during Arsenal's visit to Anfeld.

LUIS SUAREZ

World class and always a team player

When you possess a player who by general consent is already one of the world's best, how do you get even more out of him? Prior to the arrival of manager Brendan Rodgers, the no7 had scored 21 goals in his first season-and-e-half with us

Since the Ulsterman and Uruguayan combined, the striker has provided 60 goals (after the recent 3-2 win over Norwich City all Cerrow Road). "What's encouraging for me is that he actually improved as a player since he came back from his ban [in September]," says the boss

Redgers has created a unit that plays to the strengths of the South American Putting him alongside Stumdge means pentral defenders can't double-up on either lorward, creating more space. Coutn'ho's passing ensures the ball gets to Suarez in dangerous areas, white-Sterling's speed facilitates counter-attacles, with the duo combining. regularly such as for Raheem's lirst goal in the 5-1 win over Arsenal.

Scarez's energy is one of the reasons why he's so effective Rodgers has helped him channel it for the benefit of the side. with that Gunners game in which he leasured on the right to target Nacho Monreal la crime example. "Il showed what a true learn player he is. The manager remarked afterwards

FOURSOME



RAHEEM STERLING

Sublime talent and tactically aware

Being used in a variety of roles, on either flank, at the tip of a midfield diamond or even as a wing-back against Crystal-Palace back in October has helped to increase the exciting techapers tractical awareness.

teenager's tactical awareness.

Brendan Rodgers has deliberately bled to develop this side of the player's game remarking. Raheem is a dever footballer. For a vound boy, lactically he's very good.

Stering's form of recent months would have been hard to magne buring the first half of 2010. I 4 when, as he is admitted his stuggled in particular tiverpools 3-1 delete at that City was a bad day was disappointed with myself because i'd been folloing for a chance and identificate it," he's said of the aftermoon at the ICC Stadium.

Others might have been tempted to leave Raheem out for the next game, but the fact that Rodgers did the opposite instilled conflictence in the youngelse. In turn it helped thin't up play a prodat part in big games, whothing wins over Assensi and Manchester City. Even opponents have been rightly impressed with Spurs toos. Tim Sherwood mentioning Stefang in the same breath as Saare and Sturridge after his team's 4-0 eithers at a Anfact.



DANIEL STURRIDGE

Working hard as well as scoring goals

It might sound simplistic, but one of the main ways that the manager has halped Daniel Stumdge to consistently display his true, mesistible ability is by playing him in his best position—upfront Phorip amining at Antiedd. Daniel had spent the majority of

his fieldgling career with Chelsea out wide, with the 24-year-old recalling; "They always said you're not a centra-tonward. you're a winger. Thei's how they saw me. He's said the situation caused him to tose his love for the game.

Postioning him on the fairly was an unusual discosor when you consider he'd grown, up as a markstram and spert his hime at Manchester City in that role. Brenden Rodgers immediately returned him to the more termiser postion, and just seven minutes into the LFC career he bound for her eat against Monsided Town in the FA City. Since then he is led the line superbly and cleanly enjoyed his football What the goals have flowed. 34 at the time of whiting it is her all-nound game that Rodgers has demanded he develop "Phat's happened. Sturndge's pace allows the talam to quackly break toward, while his britishing eating he tain hold up the ball and occupy defenders. There is also has ability to drop deep and play one-hous to release deam-matter.



121 car 11 394 15

pidfielder and magazine columnist Amanda De Costa ew weeks as the new FA WSL season gets underway.

were than ever, you could argue hat being put an our hools may inve been the best thing to happ

have been the least thing to happe to us as a group.

After all, we construe to improve our performances in each match not, if you selve the test in a defini-sings of strength not vereinness. For often been selved if we are leasting prosecure this season to defund our league title and have direlled for the present in the construction of the present in the construction of the feel the presents that everyone league talking about. As far as Fin-cerops talking about. As far as Fin-oronomes, that presents doesn't ever addit to us and to comething.

"Do we feel pressure as we defend our title? No'' Of Sport shows the potential of the growing warmer's football market. The charmel is using its innovation as a company this year in no atternia bring our personalities out on intervision and into year fiving-too Some of the things that year as a poor commercial that I was greated to the year in a special commercial that I was greated to be only on the personal that I was a part of, previous which points in the clayers of the leaves as above.



is one of the reasons I wanted to come play in this country. The opportunities for females are only continuing to grow and one day! hope that the young gris coming to watch us now will one day get to play on the same patch in front of more lains, on even more televisions.

For now, women's lootball is in a positive place, and the uverpool Ladies were one of the list it beans of this FA WSI, season to be breadcast live. Our metch against Manchester City made a splesh on the women's lootball scene, where a large crowd saw us battle ou at 1-0 win.

The first match of the season is always a clifficult one because along with it comes a great deal of amotions. The buzz of a TV game, the energy of a tig crowed and the nerves about starting the season off on the inglit four are all factors first affected the quality of our performance that right. It might not have been a priety game but it was certainly entergianing as we had an might be the performance of the right. early goal disationed blowed by Obygoing clase, forcing our new heaper Libby Stoat to make acrose lop serves. A fater goal from salt year's Golden Bool respect Natashia Dower saw us drought to the win, where we'd later took book with a serves of price to wear the LFC Patich for the 95 on our lists. One of their things about Levensool

Academy level all the way up to the first beam and now the Lackers is the light that this club embodies. We may have been unexpectedly put on our heets with two season-ending injuries [Nicole Roiser and Lucy Sarothi, during presesson, but the light in the group of gets remains unbouched and it's going to males for a very interesting season!

It seems usely my life has been completely consumed by football. We are training full-time now at our home pitch of the Select Security Stadium in Widnes, and the challenge for me usely has been to balance time to

Laciles players with the lasts at the Cointrates at the III day at Andleid myself and my life back in New York with the high demands of our football schedule Basinding the two works has always been a challenge, and sometimes think I'm feving in an elternate universe where people speek in lumy accests. It is hard to ignore that the fives of my family and loved ones continue to go on outside my own, and that other side of my fit is even more myocrart than bodbel.

As well as supporting the Liverpool

FC Foundation as much as lean, I've recently become a member of the Online Soccer Academy World Jugglea-Thon for Tuespie-ups as everyone here calls it? which has partnered up with a foundation called Nothing But Every 60 seconds a child in Alnca diesfrom a malana infection, which could be prevented with a supply of nets. to protect their homes. All it takes is people around the world to be aware. of the problem, and \$10 of donations to make and supply these nets. I've spent the past month collecting. donations so that on World Malaria Day, 28 April. juggled for an hour in averpool with other jugglers doing professional Tolling State

It is important to remember that while my lobus and my life is playing football with uverpool usdies, there are still things that go on in the world that may or may not affect the. Being able to use football as a way to mase awareness for these causes is comeding I am very grateful for and hope that in reading this you might give a little something back today. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by vishing www..onlinescoperacidemity.com.

www.onlinesocceracademy.com, osa-world-juggle-a-thon

For all the latest on Amanda and her team-motos and the FA VYSL please vist www.ladies.fiverpooffc.com







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TOTTENHAMOD WON 7-0

First Division 2 September 1976

Liverpool swept Tottenham aside with a performance that ranks alongside the best-ever seen in top-fight English tootball. With Argentinan World Cup stars Osvaldo Arcilles and Riicky Villa in the ranks, newlypromoted Spurs had travelled north hoping to and their 60-year wait for a wim at Arrield They returned home having suffered their heaviest post-war refered. Both Pariety's regning European champoins taid down an ominous marker in their quest to reclaim the domestic crown they'd surrendered the provious season. Two Kenny Daiglish goods inside the first 20 immisters set the tone and by the interval Ray Kernedy had added another the interval Ray Kernedy had added another A Deard Johnson double made 4 5-0 ahead of the hour-mark before Phil Neal's twice taken penalty saw Liverpool add a spath. The crowning moment came we the head of Yerry McDermol 14 minutes from time a goal Bob Pasiley rated as the finest scored a Anfeld and the perfect and to a perfect performance PART NINE: 20 TO 11 By Mark Platt

GREATEST GAIVIES

19 ARSENAL (H)

First Division 18 April 1964

Liverpool wrapped up Bit Shankly's maden. Leadue title success on an alternoon. when the Kod exploded into the nation's consciousness for the first time. With four games left to play the Reds required a point to be champions. In front of the TV cameras 28,000 Kopdes provided a harmonique backdrop to proceedings on the pitch Pre-match nerves were eased when lan \$1 John opened the scoring after seven minutes and All Arrowsmen made it 2-0 before the break. With the title all but secured Liverpool. strolled through the second half, adding goals through Peter Thompson (2) and Roger Hunt. This was the day everyone had longed for since the last title triumph of 1947 and there was a crescendo of noise around Anfield as the players embarked on their lap of honour





WEST HAM (CARDIFF) DREW 3-3 (WON ON PENS)

FA Cup final 13 May 2006

Twelve months after Istanbul the Reds did A again, retneving a seemingly lost cause in a major cup final. On a balding hot day in the Weish capital it was the underdogs from East London who drew first blood. courtesy of a Jamie Carragher own-goal then an effort from Dean Ashton, Dibni The part of harder works and are and when Staven Gerrard restored parity after the restart Liverpool breathed a huge sigh of relief. It was only a temporary reprieve as Paul Konchesky made it 3-2 As the claret-and-blue ribbons were being tied to the trophy, the Reds captain intervened again with a long-range strike to force extra-time. He then his the net for a third time in the penalty shoot-out and Pepe Reina saved three out of four spotlucks to pinch the club's seventh FA Cup.





CHELSEA (A)

First Division 10 New 1986

He couldn't have written the sonot better if he'd tried: player/manager Kenny Datolish. in his first season in the job, scores the goal to win Liverpool the lide on the final day of the leadue campaion. Stamford Bridge was the venue and, having clawed back a points defor that just two months previous had LIGHT RESOURCE AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN required only one more victory to complete. the first lee of a League and FA Cup double Mersey rivals Eventor were waiting in the wings should Liverpool slip up but Kenny made sure there was no danger of that. With 23 minutes gone he lost his marker talled Jim Beafin's locomo pass on his chest and shot beyond keeper Tony Godden to send the 10,000-strong array of traveling averpudians wild with delight. A tense end ensued as the home side piled on the pressure but Liverpool held firm to secure a 16th First Division championship



16 FC BRUGES (WEMBLEY) WON 1-0 Europaan Cup fitted 10 May 1878

Twelve months after being crowned kings of Europe for the first time Everpool were back in the final tooking. to become the first British side to retain the boohy. Kevin Keedan had gone. but in Kenny Deiglish fans had a new hero With Liverpudlians making up the majority of the 92,000 Wembley crowd the stage was set for another special European might but this was not to bethe free-flowing spectacle of the previous season. Bruges came to defend and their spoiling tactics made for a drab encounter lightened only by Dalgish's winner on 65 minutes a superbichip over the keeper following a defencespiriting pass by fellow newcomer Graeme Sourcess It was a titing linale to an unforcettable first season at Amfield and proof of Liverpool's emergence as

the new power in European football









ALAVES (DORTMUND)

UEFA Cup final 16 May 2001

The most arresting UEFA Cup linal of all-time went Livespool's way on a histonic night at the Westfallerisation. In a game that had everything, Gerard Houlier's Reds were big lavourites against Spanish minimose Alaves, and the confidence increased after goals from Merkus Babbol and Steven Gerard saw them also into a 2-0 lead inside. If minitudes Even when Ivan Alonac pulsed a goal back, Gany McAllester restored the two-goal cushion before the interval and the cup seemed destined for Moneyade. Within six minutes of the restart though Liverpool were sturned as Jaw Monero scored twoer to draw Naves level.



Robbie Fowler then carns off the bench and natled what looked to be the winner only for Jord Courlf to Jord proceeding-time with a last-gasp equaliser. The suddendeath nature of the golden-pole invite ontoured there was no let up and Alaves had two man sent off before Delh Pheaded McAldiself is 1961m through the pole of the pole







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14 CHELSEA (H) WON 1-0

Champions League semi-final second leg 3 May 2005

With a place in the Istanbul final at stake following a cagey goalless cleav in the first leg in London, this was always going to be a special pocasion. But even by Antield's high standards the atmosphere was simply unprecedented Every single Liverpoor fan inside the stadium roared on the Reds and the Premier Lasgue champions-elect buckled. The around erupted after four minutes when Liverpool took the lead with a goal that will forever spark debate. It came via the left boot of Luis Garda. Chelsea claimed the ball didn t cross the line, the wesman's flag said otherwise Eidur Gudjohnsen soumed g gilt-edged opportunity to break Liverpudian hearts in stoppage time and amid wild scenes of delebration Liverpool's ticket to the Ataturk. Stadium and destiny was confirmed.



EVERTON (WEMBLEY) WON 3-2

FA Cup final 20 May 1980

In the aftermath of the Hillsborough diseaser an emotional and thrilling FA Cup limit help resistore people is faith in the game. List like three years before Fieds and Blues stood side-by-side on the Wembley terraces and they were breated to a five-goal encountie that swing in Liverpool's shriour in-oward John Addreds went some way to bordishing. the demons of his penalty miss in the previous year of final when pening the scoring after five minutes. It looked like being the goal that would wen the out until Evention equalsed through substitute. Stuart McCall in the final minutes of normal time lan Rush also game of the bench to sold in the final minutes of normal time language. The Bullis to draw level with a second from McCall. A rapitaly looked likely but Rushie popped up once more to glance a header pash the Welsh colleague Neville Southalf for the second time to seal victory.







2 INTER (II)

European Cup SF first leg 4 May 1965

Antield's first big European occasion ranks as the createst among older supporters. The visit of the reigning world club charmouns was eaperly anticipated and queues snaked their way around the ground from midday. The red half of Merseyside was already in a state of auphona following the club's first FA Cup

triumph three days earlier and the tone was set when Shanks sent out injured stars Gerry Byrne and Gordon Mine with the trophy Liverpool proceeded to hand out a footbelling lesson to Inter's stars. Sy halftime they were 2.1 ahead through goals from Roger Hunt and fan Callaghan, Sandro Mazzola's away goal would utimately prove crucial but it failed to damper the party atmosphere. Inter's fate could have been worse had a Chris Lawler goal not been disallowed but ian St John increased the margin of victory late in the second half.



REAL MADRID (PARIS) WON 1-0

European Cup final 27 May 1961

Liverpool joined an eitle band of teams to be crowned European champions on three occasions with a famous victory against the club that had dominated the competition in its formative years. In what was the first meeting between the Fleds and Real Madrid, a classic final had been predicted. As a spectacle on the night a tailed to five up to its billing but for the uverpudians who converged on the French capital in their thousands that was of no concern. A game of lew clear-cut

sponny opportunities gave the packed Parc de Princes stadium little to get excited about until an untikely source popped up to score the winning goal with nine minutes remaining. From a throw-in on the left Ray Kennedy picked out his namesake Alan and the full-back barged through the Madrid defence before unleashing an angled shot that beat the keeper at his near post. If was enough to clinch the ciant troohy for a third time and place manager Bob Paisley among the footballing immortals



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Catching up with the fan group that arranged those amazing pre-match welcomes for the team



mfeld is used to swathes of redand-white and exhibitering support existe the staplium. but have there ever been scenes like

this outside the ground before?

Ahead of the Premer League fobure against Sunderland, fars group Spion Kop. 906 helped to mobise an awe-inspring wolcome for the team.

coach as it inched along Antield Road, and it was the same for the game with Manchester City before the volume leags and banners were transferred to the famous stand itself

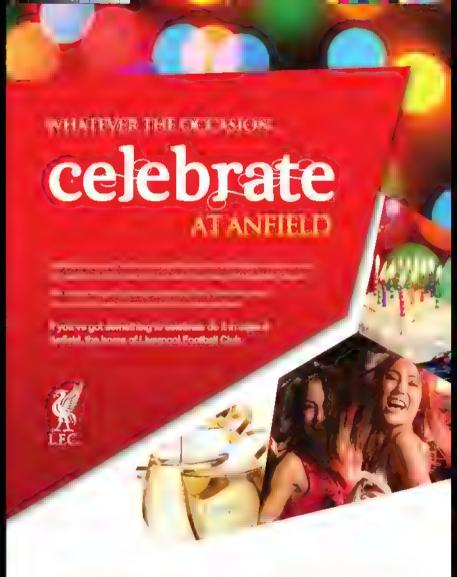
After the Sunderland match, Brandan Rodgers made a point of saluting the efforts of the fans. In filled the with great profe. As we were driving in, to get that support and then have that in the stantium, the supporters really

iffed us and got us over the fine." Following the Oily clash. Marin Strite ladded: The atmosphere was unbelevable, even on the street belove the game where we were arming. The tans showing their support and that's always gross for the players We need to say traines for that. We caught up with a spokesman from Spon Kop 1906 to find out. more about the whole operation









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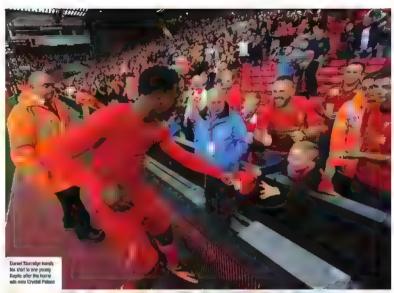


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Neil Jon Flanagan's first-team presence is an inspiration to the next generation

* Liverpool with the Premier League title this season it will be a morumental achievement, it would be inspiring for reverybody but associatify for the club s.

young players.
In your camer you want to be associated with the most successful club. No matter how old you are you don't want to be associated with a club ethnic released or underschiedwind.

remember being a learneger trying to break into the first-learn aquad when Gerrard Houlder's side secured a cup treble in 2000/01. I was fortunate to go to all of the lines. Seeing the stadium, the roles of the crowd and the actulation you receive when all goes well. It drives you on. You want to be a part of it.

We were a part of the official travelling party but not the celebrations. That gives you something to aim for it is a glimpse of what it could all be like. It also means you become closer to the fairs because you're on the terraces with them, singing and charling.

For the under 21 and Under 18 ands to see John Flanagain pleying a couciar role is significant too He is one of them. He's been through the Academy He knows what is like all the uncertainty, not knowing whether the dream will be realised in becoming an established light-deep player.

Suddenly lads like Connor Randall are coming to the fore in the Under-21s. He deserves credit in his own right for developing, for having the

"I'm sure that seeing Jon in the first team will have urged the young players on"



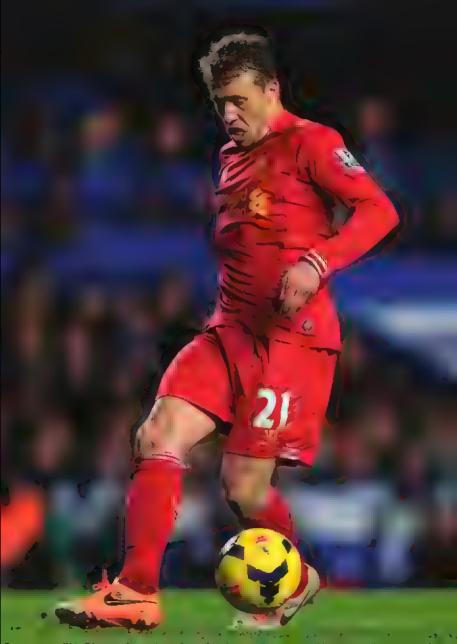
ability and the attitude. But as a rightback it'm suite seeing someone like Planagan healuring in the first term will have unged him on, he's a really solid player. Connor and Hook lorward to seeing a continuation of his propiess ment seeon.

Mex implements and his staff have done a fartasist, plo with the Under-21s. At the time of writing they too were in a position to writ the eague. The everage age of the squad is very young. Many of the players are under 18. At that age if usually shows in performance because if a silm when a player's grystique or inflected by you do the is 17 of this group have been able to step up, develop and age results.

Perhaps this is best illustrated by

someone like Jordan Flosster He's the youngest player in the Linder-21s but he's played in the most games. In March he was rewarded by a new long-term contract on he's 17th brithday

didn't sign my lins professional dealinnes have thanged with olbus getting players tied up a lot earlier now having they might go somewhere else. Rossitier has been a huge success this season. He's a real presence on the pitch with his personality. Mixed with the ability the potential is clear for all to see "in auto the also possesses line character to appreciate there is a a lot of work to be along yet. Follow Nell on Twitter (RNHMIRMOS).





Lucas has seen it all in seven years at LFC - highs and lows, setbacks and comebacks, and now a new positional challenge, he tells Simon Hughes...







Seven years at Liverpool makes you the longest-serving Brazilian at any English club in history...

Wow. 4 did not realise that. I knew Giberts Silva was at hiseral for maybe six years. Tortay we can see many Brazilians here in the Premier Ladgue. Brazilians here in the Premier Ladgue. Brazilians want to come here and clubs want to eigh Brazilians. But when first camo I think! I was only the second Brazilian to play for Liverpool. We had a very smell part in England. Would vie liked to win more things in this time, but there are still many things to achieve because I am still only 27 am confident hall cone very soon.

"I've been lucky over the years to have people around me that did not let me give up"

It could just be the Premier League title...

You know a linenal in Brazil called me the other day. He said: "Lucas, what would be more important to win for Liverpool - the Premier League or the Champions League?' Floid furnithat at this moment if has to be the leadue For other teams maybe Europe would be more important. But think about what that might tool like being a part of the beam that wins the league for the first time in nearly a quarter of acentury and I get excited. Winning the league has the same importance to the people of Liverpool as winning the World Cup does for the people of Brazil No Brazilian team has ever won the World Cup in our country and no Everpool team has wonthe league in 24 years. If we do this, we will be remembered in history if would be very special r il happened, incredible, idon't think Liverpool as a city will see anything like it again.

How is the
Luces of TITLE
Luces of TITLE
a stifferent
player and
person to the one
that signed for
Liverpool in 2007?
The fist fing think of is how hard
it was For mis, I was so young.
Everything was title a snowball
Every day something different was

happening. Sometimes thought I'd never get through. You see many loreian players come here struggle and then give up or look for a change very quickly. You are young and you want everything right away. You do not have patience. Then you gut doubts in your head. Can play at this level? Because you don I have the expenence to trust yourself. But think I'm lucky I have poople around me that did not let me give up. I'm a person that doesn't give up so easily as well Of course had felt I could not offer any more would have asked for a change. In a person that thes

everything before looking for a way out. But that was not what I thought at that moment and that's why. think that ain still here.

Sign ia 3 d

I'm a lot tougher mentally.
I hrust myself more. You have to be five that if you want to play for Liverpoot for a cong time. It's fantastic when you are winning games, but you have another side as

have been here longer than me, Stevie Agger and Steris, will tell you the same. They have been in the worst moments too. Managers have done and gone. We have I been in the Champions Ladjue. There has been different owners, lets of players your liends. moving away. Then I've had injuries too.



"Lots of players have had chances when they didn't expect it — that's football"

Through all that the pressure remains high as it should because of the dub's history. You've got to be lough This is an other time.

where mental strength will be tested with the potential of Liverpool winning the league and Brazil naming their World Cup squad in the same week... Yes it is. They are both my aims, and to play of course I know Steve is playing in my position and doing very very well. So that's why I'm working. hard and maybe looking not towards enother position - but maybe another way I can help, and still play beside Stevie Because Hinowhim being in the team in that position, my chances will be limited. Besides Kenny. Stave e. considered one of the club's greatest players and he is still one of the best in Europe He is our captain, a fantastic player and a fantastic person as well He's our leader. So I just have to see if I can help in any way. Especially being here for so long. Want to be part of it at this mornent where the learn is really close (to the title). I think of the bad moments and think now and there is no comparison. The stage is very different. For the last three or four years it has been so hard for the club I stayed because I always believed the club would be back competing for titles and things like that. So I just want to help in any way just hope if finishes with a happy and with the dub winning the league and then being selected for Brazil at the World Cup.

Has the boss Brendan Redgers spoken to you about your position in the team?

We sat down in January where he explained that he wanted to use Seems as a holding player and maon the side of the three midfielders. It is something if leaf confloriable with it is something if leaf confloriable with



Of course as much as you play you feel even more comfortable. You know you can help more. Football is like that. At the moment, are not thinking about what might happen next season. There is such a greet opportunity here this season, if would not help myself, the line I is sullar to start to thinking too much When it is all over will think about the best way I can lit. Sut lootball is a strange sport where everything can change in the space of 90 minutes. My career in lootball has been up. down, up and down. This is normal But I always tried to get back and be strong. It's not that easy, though, Sometimes a's trustrating. There have been hard times for me. This time after the injury if has been different because the team is doing so well and it is difficult for the manager to change

things. You unclessand that, show that the only way is to train hard and prepare unts of players this season have had chances when they did not expect it. Suddenly you are in the ream and you are away. Football is like that don't think any player has ever just been up all of the time.

Of course you have experience in playing in a mark in midfield role...

Yes, at Gremio. We used to play a total time in a clamond. We had is holding midfielder a playmater them me inner box to box. The playmater did not not howard so much but I had line energy and keedom to join the stack. It's pretly much the same Benacha sals her if we play in a



demond. Yes, you have to look after the full-backs and, when the ball is on the other side of the petch help outside the holding multielder. You also have to keep the ball but combuste to the attack. Mano Menezes (the tomer Gremo and Brazi coach) used to say that I went lonvart too much and sometimes use my position. That was sometime; lost my position.

Coming here and having Rata as a manuager think it was us! what it needed at the time. He rendroted exerything that Mano had said it think today maybe sometimes are too responsible. As the holding middelifer was always thinking about the beam the organization in making sure it remains the same. Allaybe, should take the risk a bit more. When you play



(on the side of the diamond) you have the chance to go forward. When you play as a holding mudhelder it is harden to do that As a holding mudhelder it is harden to do that As a holding mudhelder if you are up here around the box, something is wrong, it is not something that Brendam wants You can see this with Stave now his assists come from the dead ball the free lacks the corners. And of course the goals are coming from the peralties because this me in that position he cannot attack. You have to be behind the ball and be ware of the space.

You seem to have had close relationships with each of your managers...

The only one never had too many discussions with was Roy Hodgson



but that was because he was pnly have a way short time in companion to the others. Even so whenever I meet him, we have a chat. Brendan Rodgers. Kenny Dalgists and Hall Benitize. They have things that are very clithrent. Evenders door is elways open. He always has time for you theel free to speak to him. That retainonable with the law of the law of the the hall be always the time for you can have to feel cominable with low have to feel cominable with low people you work with

"Brendan's door is always open – he makes time for you to speak to him"

Yet each manager has had a different etyle of play...

Tactically we were more conservative under Rela and under Brendan more statisticating. With Kenny it was in-between: But they all wanted the same things and that was to wir. You realise loolball can be played in a lot of ways. At the and, if you're writing games, that is all that that matters. Winning gines you the confidence to try different styles and in English lootball you need to be versable, ready for anything prepared to try all ways.

How important has Brendan Rodgers been to the emergence of this team?

Oh, very important in rucket it heets the everything is in place now. The club is happy. We play good football, attacking football. There are many British players, young players. It helps in the dressing-room, the mix of young and oid, because the young are levely and keep the old on their toes. We have not spart much money Everybody lights for the same thing. To be where we are is a very special thing in football.

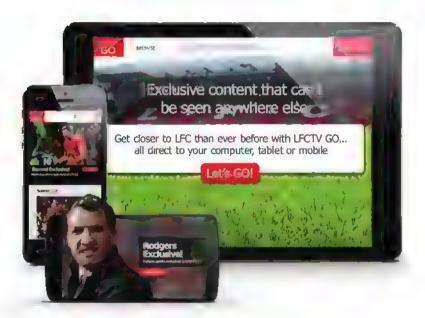








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Before joining Liverpool Fd neve trained property.

leas ongroully on Manchester City's books as a junor and I'd occasionally done some training sessions there, maybe a dozen in total. Their inplayed for Skellmestaked United but make trained with them because was sawly at university in Coverity during the week. So'll meant I never where with at well coathing session was As a restull initially found it very tough at Everpoor junded, and it very tough at Everpoor junded, and it was tough at Everpoor junded, and yell was a service or yell and yell yell

in my first game at Anfield I didn't actually know which end was the Spion Kopl

It was Geny Byme's testimonal and fidjust signed for the club. While growing up "was into footbell but heigh "been a tarsetic. My brother supported Sheffield Weithresday and, probably because of that, I had a slight affection for Sheffield United. But I wear't obsessed by the game. I timin linet worked in my favour because it meen! wasn't newous or overaved by the prospect of playing for a big cub. Neybe was too nave to be nevous. That testmonat game was the first since of been to Antied Despite there being a load of posis in the match I dight manage to score. But think, I caught the eye because of shobled with the ball quite a for. I that was unit someone advised me I should just let Staplay Manney do that.

I was the no9 for Liverpool back then but shirt numbers didn't bother us...

Tortly wore that shirt because I'd taken Bobby Graham's place in the side Bobby was a Scotien shrifer who unfortunately broke his leg agents Chelses and Came on to replace him, in Dictober 1970, From their nor I'd only my place and started to wear his shirt. Kevin Keisgan and John Tochack were usually upfornt and t don't think either of them would have contemplated termanding the notel Neither of linem had an eign Numbers dickn't really matter to any ollar-wey lack warried to play.







My journeys to Metwood involved getting three buses.

When imoved to uverpool lived in Meghuli For the first few months had to use public transport. That meant three buses and it took quite a while. Then I found out ten Callaghan lived reasonably obse to me.

The fact that I was a footballer who'd been to university was a big deal for the media.

And intally some of my term-mates found it unusual. This press mode a lot out of it – I suppose a bodsafler with a degree was something different. Some of the other players were a like weary of me when I first, pured but not too many of them gave me stok about it. I had a sharp lampus so if anyone old always came back with a line of my own. When the lads naised could play, if made my background material could play, if made my background material. Providing you are not describe the control of some players overlook someone who is of they are good enough.

I once told Shanks I'd give him a sensible answer when he asset me a sensible question...

He was tolling a story about a house being on fire to get a message across about helping out your teem-males. He asked if I would go get a bucket of water or use worth in burn? When he heard my reply he flipped. I dight like to be put down and he dight how how to handle the act that if a navversed him back. In general though we got on very well it was a good reliable in him.

When Sharick retired for a while we thought Brian Clough might replace him.

In the dressing-room we speculated about who would come in and some do the lads thought it might be Clough. There was real uncertainty at that point the summer of 974 because Shanks retirement was a shock. As players we were all disappointed to see him go Then mail boarder worty because a new man might have warfied to bring man might have warfied to bring mail the some observers.





"Not one tie in Europe ever fazed us – we'd never give it a second thought"

Bob Painley told us he didn't want the manager's job.

But he said had been given it and would do it. Initially think he lound it a difficult situation. We were a mature group and we all did our best to ensure the transform was smooth. Bob didn't change a lot and I think that was key Then, as he gained more confidence, he found it osser. He grew into it.

On European trips the different interests within the squad became obvious.

Clearly we had good team sport: but that dich'r mean we all shared the same intrests. It was emphasised when we travelled abroad. A group of us including lair Callaghan, Brian Hall. Ray Clemente, Phil Meal, Joey Jones and David Johnson would go wandening airound the different clear to see the sights. The others would say in the Noti playing cards.

We never leared any opponent in Europe.

don't remember a single lie that ever lazed us. We'd be told the draw for the near cound and the only comment might have been where is their? Them we'd forget about the game until a actually came around; I wouldn't say we were blace about European football. But we'd were very comfortable with it.

I cried my eyes out when I left Liverpool.

During 1979-90 and 90/91 renely playot. Fredde Goodwin, who was the manager of Minnesota Sicks in the NASL, got in houch and asked if if the NASL, got in houch and asked if if the NASL got in though their. My contract with Liverpool was coming to an and and they weren't going to offer me a new one. If was immersely, each to leave. Going to America was a good solution. Il preferred to deappear rather than enterin in England.

My coaching career began in America.

The Minnesota Kolck went bankrupt so if dinoxed on to Philadelphia in the indoor leegue. Again though that dub experienced financial problems. Was 35 by then bly family loved America so when the opportunity to remain their and move in to ceoching came along it really appealed. Spent thousands of hours coaching in the Flonda heat and their started working with the US Sooser Federation and the Unider-20 national learn. It was faintastic.

t hadn't ever considered returning to Liverpool.

My main interest in the US was working with a side called the Clearwater Changes in Plands, firm still involved: there now Leaving or corning back to England wasn't part of my plans. Then tale 1986, Liverpool offered me a job running their youth programme. It was hard work at the start but loved 4 right up until leaving in 2007.

It's not just about producing a Fowler, McManaman, Gerrard, Carracher or Owen.

A few of the leads we worked with hanse become household names interfaced of others click it make it at uverpoor. Unforbit namely that uverpoor. Unforbit namely that it we nature of the game it is others by decising to set someone from the Academy progress through to the first team. But for me if it just as satisfying to see ladds such as Ryan Ryan. Seption Darby or Jary Spoamy doing wet somewhere site



More recordly as hand of the LFC Academic

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Pop Across The Mersey

y setby tentus bleed Ava 27 kms



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Ant & Dec's they was Dr You O September

British Bodybuilding Finals A DEAL Notural Pro Grand Pris 21 September



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Michael Palin Dooley

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Showaddywaddy 15 November



Paul Hollywood 6 November Andrea Bacelli

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....NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!







RUSHIE, THEKING BIG JAN Some of Liverpool's greatestever players warmed up for the celebration of st.

Celebration of the 96 with a match against the gentlemen of the press. Result? No contest, writes Simon Hughes. But he knew that already

















shows his back to me I am fine yards away. Jan Molby he doesn't need to look up Calculating Dalgish will be the reopient of the pess trundle forward. This is my chance of an interception. He might be Uverpool is greatest player. But he is also more than two my aga, in those wild, brief moments, such ambotus thoughts tumble through my mind. Ite a pair of lootball boots on a slow typide in a washing-machine. Dalgish sharmins he shoulder.

enny Dalqlish

charges reprimies his shoulder one way. The rest of him and the ball of him and the ball dark to the other stand still Dalglish is hunning. He is tool sometime etsplaneady lain Rush peets off to the right.

John Aldridge repositions left-of-centre. Rush crosses to Aldridge. And with that the reality is and bare. The finish that follows is dispatched with all the professional ruthlessness you diexpect from someone who scored 330 goals. in 810 league garnes.

m stall standing still. Vet strangely contented that I have been duped by a piece of Daiglash stall. If it had to be anyone arm gled at shim it would be too adverturous to call it an opportunity for me anyway a Sunday feague player in semi-intervenent. The process book serven to eight seconds. Now the upgends are leading.

The call-up was tate less than 24 hours before The Lagends were seven days away from the Celebration of the 96 game in which they will mark the



legends v press

25th anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedly by playing against one another in front of a capacity crowled at Antiold On a sunny Monday affarmoon in April a friendly match against local press of MeAvood was arranged in front of Brenday Rodgers, a few ground staff and a calmera crow.

som to a current over.

In the changing-rooms beforehand
there are things you never realised
before. Mobils is much taller than you
before. Mobils is much taller than you
before. The company of the company
more formidable presence. Aldridge
too has NFI. Instituctive shoulders a
chest of whought from and upper owns
seemingly made of alloy.

On the wooden seats coposite are decorated footballers folk that helped make _verocol the most successful glub in England, those that conquered Europe on loreign soils. There are plenty of lokes from the ex-players. There is baiting. The press, including me, laugh along like we are somehow. part of it as if we belong here Inwardly it feets our role is already determined turn up, run around fall over and lose quite heavily. They might be wearing training attire without shinpeds and we might be in a full kit but there is an mescapable feeling that we have all the gear and no idea.

The prich at Melwood is a billiard table creen. list and smooth. Then it begins. The Legends domination territorially is absolute but we break quickly a long ball over the top of the lone defender Roy Evans, and giving chase. Hoping, Fearing what might happen next, journalists from The Times, The Guardian and The Daily Mirror celebrate hesitantly as. we build a two-goal lead, the second of which is improbably scored by the writer of this report, Michael Thomas hestates on the edge of the area and captaise, striking into the top comer although for the heightened sense of drama in the piece, the distance may have been exaggerated a little

Well that was "me done. No matter what happened in the next hour of lootball. I had sooned a goest against a team that included Dalgish. Rush. Moliby and Astridge. It shows as spend the remainder of the game summerbeng possession with astonishing consistency.

Two-ni biocones three-one four-one and five-one. James Pearce from the Echo scores a half-inck. We are in wonderland. Suddenly, the Legenda rare book in twhen a press man (whose identity will arrain a nonymous unless the cameras have cought it and decide to release the video on YouTube) majestically heads pest his two graitments, Yinny O'Donnor of Sky Sports. By half-time, the lead head half the state of the service of the service of the foot and very sweetly. Althodge, then Dougleth, delife converted with the back in



















"Molby strides through like a battleship to chip in a seventh for the Legends"

of his heel after a move involving Alan Kennedy and Ronnie Whelan

In the second half the change in approach from the Legends is notocoable Molby moves from its ibero-goalkeeper role and into the sidero-goalkeeper role and into the sidero-goalkeeper role and into the side of the pitch to the other. They include an error defender and employ a highly effective goal-hanger in Addrige. With no offsides, the press team fall deeper and deeper and eventually the inevolable haupers.

Ver the is not before a contentious period discount when the reteree points to the spot after a reasonably high Deligiesh pass strikes the chest cand not the hand) of an unfortunate midfielder running towards his own deachball fine that midfielder being me. Although Aldridges penally is saved speciacularly by O'Connor the incident seems to galvanue the Lagends who now know all the big discounts will go their vary

am taken back to those legendary Melwood games between the staff: Shrarikly Pasiely Fagari Moran and Bennett versus the A and B team players where encounters would continue until the staff had established a lead:

Just like that the equaliser arrives via Rush's sharp turn and firesh and soon the Legends are ahead for the first time when Aldindge soars highest to plant in the header which began the story

Moltly strides through midfield like a Tirptz balliteship before chipping in a seventi hen distriough the now belesguered press team manage to register an injuny-time consolation, psychologically we all appreciate a glonous defeat is ours.

At the limal whistle, there is relied White the press escape with their dignly just about match and the Legonds act all humble, the suspicion remains that such is their greathess they always knew if would and like the.

"Maybe next one wee man Daigksh says aming earnestly as he shakes my hand "I doubt it respond."



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I read something about Kenny Delglish coming on trial to the club years before he signed, is this correct? J Farrell, Winsford

A True, He came on trial when Bill Shankly was boss in the 60s. Liverpool wanted to sign him but Kenny's parents felt it was too early for him to leave his Glasgow home.

The Liverpool Official Archives are the branchild of Norwegian statistician Johny Stokkeland. He's spent countless hours researching the club's fedures, not only at first-learn level but also reserves and Junior matches

When Kenny Dalgish first pulled on a Liverpool shirt it was not the no? with which he d become synonymous Instead he played his first 90 minutes in the not shirt then associated with Roger Hunt and newadays with Steven Gerrard He was rust 15

Jonny explains. "I went brough some of the old KOP newspapers from the 1960s and came across the very pame in question. It was a 'B team malch played on 20 August 1968 and despite having Kenny in the team averpool were bealen by one goal to

rul by a Southport side."

In his 2010 book My Jiverpool Home. Kenny recalled the game was just me desperate to win as always. When we were losing 1-0. Chad a chance to poualise but as I was about to roll the ball into the Southport net with my left tool, a wee guy called Jimmy Bowman. nicked 4 off my loss and missed Lwould have spored. Alterwards I trudged of the Metwood prich still seething at the incident and losing.

Alter also impressing in an Under 16s that game. Kenny was accompanied by Shanks back to the YMCA where he was staying. Bill informed the vouncister that he wanted to sign him

> "Kenny's LFC debut in his trial was against a team from Southport"

and would send representatives to see his parents in Glasgow But Kermy's lather decided he was too young, and although he would later have a trial with Ron Greenwood's West Ham. Kenny would start his professional career with Celuc

Eleven years taler Kenny finally made his senior debut for Liverpool. against Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley, this time in the ng? shirt he would wear with distinction on another 514 occasions

Johny adds. It is interesting to think what might have happened had Kenny signed more than a decade before he actually did It also seems significant that his debut outing was against Southport the town where he would eventually set up home. That 'B' team game a certainly an interesting part of his overall Liverpool story

ASK IONNY

Johny and his team aim to help ex-players or families of explayers requesting information and are grateful when they receive new biographical details. If you have an LFC-related query about a player or particular game, you can contact Johny via Homagia)programmentaster com.



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The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world...



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90 Teixeira's health kick



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Themonth



AWARDS NIGHT

Life will stoge their inaugural Players Awards Drinner recognising from teath Laddes and Academy players as well as fars at the Loverhood ACC Lounterence Centre on Tilesday or May "live are one club and we pride ourselves on this menuality." Says Brendari Redigins "The awards will bring together revoyone in "Tilesca Lounterpoolity of the Difference of the Company Tilescand to the Interneutific Company Tilescand Tilescand



LADIES TAKE ON BLUES

The FA WSL is back in full swing and the Reds will play the final game before a month-long break when they host JEFA Champions Leegue semi-finalists Birmingham on Saturday 24 May Matti Beard's side will be looking to make home advantage out in at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes Tickets are prood ES for adults or ES 60 for children and concessors.







BIRTHDAY XI

Tommy Lawrence 74 on 14 May Andre Wisdom 21 on 9 May Torben Piechnik 51 on 21 May Nichy Tannet 40 on 24 May Igor Biscan 36 on 4 May Graeme Souness 61 on 6 May Jimmy Case 60 on 18 May Viadimir Smicer 43 on 24 May Steven Gerrand 34 cm to May Howard Gayle 56 pp. 18 May Samed Yesil 20 nn 25 May



EUROPEAN CUP ANNIVERSARIES

41 years since Liverpool defeated Borussia Monchengladbach to win the UEFA Cup on 10 May 36 years since LFC beat Bruges to retain the European Cup on 10 May 9 years aince the Miracle of Islanbul, Champions League final on 25 May 37 years since Liverpool claimed their first European Cup on 25 May 33 years since Alan Kennedy gave the Reds European Cup no3 on 27 May







LFC TV ALL EYES

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To set the scene ahead of the tournament LFC TV will be faunching a brand new 10-pert series. World Stars will form the centrepiece of the channel's achedule in the build-up to Grazii 2014

Each 25-minute apisode features The second second second second lootage of twenty stars that are being toped to light up this summer's fourweek long lootsaling festival





Every show locuses on two different players and these in-depth profiles will reveal why they are some of the most celebrated names in world football night now

Among a star-studded cast. which includes the likes of Andres Investa, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lignel Messi, are Everpool favountes Steven Gerrard, unis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge

Stavitured to LFC TV for further details about World Stars and a complete schedule of when each 100 PM 100 PM

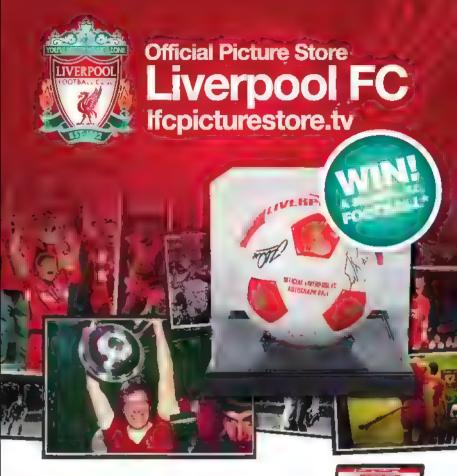
For just £2.99 LFC TV Online allows you to watch LPC TV live and will give you on-demand access to all the team's goals, highlights. live reserve and under 18 games. news and exclusive video internews. For more information visit www.liverpoolic.com/vicied

Delayed coverage of every game will also be available on LFC TV which is Ince to view on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544. For full listings modulitation and states with the states of t

FIXTURES 13/	1/
AUGLIST 17 Stoke City (H) 24 Aston Villa (A) 27 Notis County (H) (COC 2)	1-0 1-0 4-2
SEPTEMBER 1 Manchester Jid (H) 16 Swenses City (A) 21 Southampton (R) 25 Manchester Unit (N) (COC3) 29 Sunderland (A)	141 141 141
	3-1 2-2 4-1
MOVEMBER 2 Arsenal (A) 9 Fulham (III) 23 Eventon (A)	8-2 4-4 8-3
4 Norwich City (N) 2 West Ham Uld (N) 16 Totlenham H (N)	141 541 141 141 141 141
18 Aston Vills (H)	24 34 53 22 24
FERILARY 2 Wast Brown (II) 8 Assenal (II) 12 Fulham (II) 16 Assenal (FAC 5) (II) 22 Swamsest City (II)	14 51 12 12 43
MARCH 1 Southerretter (A) 16 Manchester Utd (A) 22 Cardiff City (A) 26 Sunderland (A) 30 Totenhars H (N)	31 31 63 21 40
APRIL 6 West Herri (Jid (I)) 13 Manchester City (II) 20 Norwich City (II) 26 Chelsee (II)	3년 3년 3년

5 Crystal Palace (A) 8:00pm 11 Newcastle Jtd (H) 3:00pm

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Away days

With a hop over to Dublin scheduled for 14 May one Irish Red recalls past visits from his heroes



Lansdowne Road





uring thy childhood in the 1980s it for like Liverpool came to play in Dublin every year," rectals

Joe Turner a member of supporters website trishKop.com

A quick look back through the history books confirms as much, with the Reds visiting the (rish capital live times in the first half of that particular decade.

Joe first attended one of those friendly games in November 1982, with a Shamrock Rovers team that included luture Red Jim Beglin providing the opposition for Bob Passley's side. "The match took place at Millown, Rovers old pround which was controversially sold to property dayslopers a few years later. he continues

Tremember (an Push aconno in the first half and Rovers got a later equalizer. To be there watching. _verbool blavers in the flesh was fantastic for everyone. I was only eight at the time so you can imagine how excited was

Just a few months earlier Turner had been mesmerised while witnessing the learn's 3-1 Milk Cup final success. against Totterhern Holsour on TV Football didn't have the same wallto-wall coverage then. In Ireland in particular we only got a few games

"The Reds came here to play an Irish Olympic XI"

on terrestrial channels. But that final was live on RTE 2

The fact that Ronnie Whelan scored twice, one of them being a later equaliser to take the game to extra time, really meant a lot to people in Ireland From then on twes a Jiverpool tan. If was probably a little odd for me to support them because my dad lollowed Manchester United. My older sister was into Liverpool though, so that probably influenced me

The next time Tumor saw his heroes in live action wasn't in treland but at Wembley "My dad despite being a United fair I look me to the 1988 FA Cup linal. He managed to get licitats through a mate and we few in and out of iulion on the day Just. to be there was fantastic. To win it made the whole trip extra-special

Fitner months later he was again in attendance as his heroes returned to Dublin, this time to face an Irish Olympic XI at Lansdowne Road. The trip across the Irish Sea lor Kenny Dalglish's squad came four days after they dippened the season with a 2.1 win away at Arsenal Due to a collapsed sewer under the Kop they couldn't play at Anfield until 12 September so the friendly was

"A schoolboy acket for the game post me just £2," says Joe. "The idea of an hish Olympic football team sounds a little bizame now. I'm not sure any hish team has ever taken part in the Olympics and they clidn't qualify Being reelistic, they clidn't have much chance against Liverpoor ther and it was no surprise to see them lose 5-0. John Barnes and Peter Beardsley had just arrived and Ray Houghton would come along a few weeks later so that was the early days of Kenny's really entertaining side."

With a flight-time of less than an hour between Merseyside and





Dublin some members of the team even travelled over for social events. One of those was in honour of Alam Hansen, with 1997/88 being the central detender's testimonial year. Turner was in attendance as the Soot was honoured by Insh Reds.

It was held at the Ziegfield Hotel. It was a famous, or perhaps that should be mamous, skightly rum-down venue in Dun Langhare just a few miles south of Dublin I think Hamsen was presented with a dodgy vase or something similar.

Accompanying him were the club's

rnameger's Nag on about at Artifold stream





Insh players Plonnie Wheten, Slevie Stanthon Ray Houghton Jim Begain and John Aldridge. Aldo was yet to score for fredand at the time it took him about 20 pames to get his first goal so he was getting a bir of good natured sock floor the crowd. To be fair his blook it wall. I was only a kid but it was all why hinty night. Again, seeing Juverpool players in the flesh was acquainly hard to comorbehen.

The next time Joe got so close to the squad the majority of the faces had changed, with Roy Evans in charge it was May 1985, ast two days after Backburn Royers had won the tide at Anlield when Dublin again welcomed the team. This time they were on the banks of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face useque of the team of the Lilley to face the Lilley to the team of the Lilley to the Lilley to the Lilley to the team of the Lilley to the Lilley the Lilley to the Lilley to the Lilley to the Lilley to the Lille

That previously the sight of a local neiting the evening's opening goet. "A lad called Packe Lynch put UCD in front He lived down the mad from ma. Apparently held been on trail at Liverpool onor to then but hedn't made it. So when he scored he lorobly made his point to the away duoput. A Robbie Fowler effort in either half, with a James Radknapo strike in between, was enough to turn the mital defect into a 3-1 victory. Around that time pre-season tours were becoming more global If became the norm to go to America or Asia so Liverpool didn't travel to keland as often, although they were there again in 1997, 1998 and 2000

the south the said in the same to the continent for training, so that was probably another reason why the regular visits to Dublin came to a that in the Nouothers.

That was the case until last August, who are acapacity crowd of really 50,000 turned up to see the Reds labe. Cellic at the Awka Stodium formerly unstadowne Road Despite Amdo Balde is goal deading the contest in taxour of the Scottsh outfit it was a memorable day.

"Beforetised we'd all thought the crowd would be spin 50:50. Turner continues." As we-yone impose, there are loads of Celtic lans, there are loads of Celtic lans, throughout Indand. But there were adulally tal more Liverpool supporters in altimodanco id only be guessing, however of wouldn't suppose me if 75 per cent of the crowd had red sharts on. With everyone mixed in together alongside each offer and a really warm day in made for a brieflant specially.

Tauppose the fact an Inshman in Brendan Rickgoss a now in charge of the club gives 4 earts applicance for people here too. Evenyone is really exceted about the game against Shammock Rovers pin 14 May. There is a buzz about in and, think most of the befalse have sold out. Obviously the dream is for the team to have the recently won Premier. Leadure Epoth with them.

AVIVA STADIUM IN THREE

- Lansdowne Road, the original name for the south Dublin venue, was first used for athletics in 1872.
- 2 Traditionally a rugby union venue, the first football match took place in 1971 when Ireland faced flaly in a friendly
- 3 Some of the biggest mustic acts in the world have played at the venue. Uz Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Devis Jir and the Eacles amons them.

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TEX MESSAGE

verpool FC Foundation delivers a range of programmes within the local community and beyond that inspires positive change and helps build better fluores for young people and adults. The Foundation provides a targeted Men's Health programme in local communities across the oily. Aming to moreove the health and wellbonio

And taking part in a voterti-cal



of male residents aged 18 years and over 4 was created in response to the high levels of poor health across the city region. The programme targets the key risk factors that contribute to the levels of poor health including, poor diet objestly. Healt disease, lively hysical-acrowly level, cancer prevention alcohol and drug awareness and mental health widblong. Through the dolivery of hee sessions, it helps to improve access to information, increase publichealth ongagement and encourage sustainable health improvement.

Rads youngster Joso Carlos Telesinin accently dropped by one of the sessions to lend his support. The 21-year-old joined a group in a crucia-tharining session followed by a five-a-side match at North Juerpool Academy. "Its important for both men and women to look after their health and wettering," seld Joso. "This programme encourages the men in the city to take more of a pro-active approach to a lifestyle to benefit their tong-term health and happiness.

Mark Haig head of operations at Liverpool FC. Foundation, added: "Our Men's Health programme has been running for more than eight years, and during that time we have helped thousands of men across the city reach to live healther itestytes.

"Liverpool unlortunately has poor levels of health in men. The life supactancy is just 74 years, almost four years tower than the national average. Men also have higher rates for all 15 leading causes of death, including, canoor and diabetes, and only 25%.

visid their GP's for regular check-ups "Our programme was designed to combat the poor levels of health through simple assistions delivered in our local communities which focus on health and wellbeing, physical activity, awareness and change, using the power of the LPC bedoe." LIKEUS



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22 January School visit for the LFC Foundation With my brother Yann?



23 November



22 November #ynwa



19 November #bresi



30 October Hi everyone! I love to share with you. So, thank you for all your great comments!!!



26 October Hey fans! I'm just leaving my house, are you ready to support us this afternoon?



29 September My first win with the Fleds!!



David Liverpool's best performer this season is the magnificent manager behind it all

Destroy The Column Street to sarming out it has been a great nine months. for Liverpool FC and its supporters. The way the lans have been petting behind the team has been great to see and I'm sure that becking inspires the players onto greater heights. Regardless of what we might have to go for in the final games of the season, everyone is massively proud of this team.

Fremernber saying in this column al Christmas-time that I hoped we would be able to secure a top-four finish. Back in August I would have bitten anyone's hand off if they'd said Champions League football would be back at Antield next season - it's massively important. Anything on too of that would be a massive bonus.

Brendan Rodgers has been brilliant and I would have to give him 10 out of 10 for what he's achieved at Liverpool so far. It was always going to take him time to adapt to the club but you could gradually see the players starting to believe in his way of thinking and playing. You could see it coming logether little by little.

As a fan, you just hoped that it was going to be the way forward for Liverpool, but you can see that the players believe in him 100 per cent. They want to go out there and produce for him. It's a young team and in some ways he seems to be a father figure to many of them, knowing when to put en arm around them hut also when to

"To go from seventh place to challenging for the title has made us all so proud"



tell them to raise their games. He's got great man-management skills and tactically he's been very shrawd and demonstrated that he's a good judge of situations.

The win against Marichester City was one of the best of the season because it showed another side to the team. This year we've often been spoiled by going in two or three-up at half-time and having the luxury of that sort of cushion. But often the sign of a champion team is scraping those one-nils with five minutes to go. With the exception of Fulham away and a nervy few minutes at home to Sunderland, we haven't had too many of those situations

Whatever happens between now and the final lock against Newcastle. the team won't face a more nervewracking scenario than the one against Olly. It was a high-pressure moment. where they had lost a lead and the momentum was with their opponent but they showed their resolve and a

great fighting spirit to get the victory. If I'm being honest there have been times in the last few years where I had started to doubt whether I'd ever see Liverpool win another league title in my lifetime but this team has given us that sense of optimism again. To go from seventh to a title challenge is pretty much unprecedented and it has made us all proud.

I was pleased to get a good win under my beit against Ondrej Pala in Denmark the other week. He is a good opponent so to secure a third round knockout was a positive step and now I am looking forward to my next light on 7 June. I missed the City game because I was on the plane hame from Denmark at the time. We were two up when I landed but by the time I'd collected my bags it was 2-21 Thankfully, it worked out well and I believe these are exciting times for both the club and myself. Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1





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